

HIGHLAND PONY SOCIETY JUDGES' SCHEME

Revised May 2017

I. PRE APPLICATION

- Nominees must be current and fully paid-up members of the Society for a continuous period of at least five years. They should have been breeding or showing successfully or involved with Highland ponies during that time.
- Nominees should be familiar with the Highland Pony Society Breed Description and Showing Recommendations. In the opinion of the Council, they must have a proven track record in Highland ponies.
- It is beneficial to have undertaken stewarding, and judging at unaffiliated shows.

II. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Potential judges should be proposed and seconded by members of the Highland Pony Society both of whom have been members for a continuous period of at least five years.
- The Application Form, which can be obtained from the Society's Secretary or website, must be submitted with a statement of support from the proposer and seconder.
- Application documentation and Statement of Support Forms are confidential.
- The selection of Nominations for Assessment and Interview will be made by Council.
- Selected Nominees will be invited for Assessment and Interview on the payment of £40 to help defray administration expenses. Unsuccessful Nominees may not re-apply within two years from the date of refusal.

III. ASSESSMENT & INTERVIEW

- The pool of Assessors will comprise HPS Panel judges.
- Nominees will not be assessed by their Proposer or Secunder.
- Nominees should come dressed appropriately for judging.
- Nominees for the Ridden Panel will be required to ride ponies.
- Nominees are encouraged to take notes during the classes and be prepared to discuss their placings during the Interview.
- The Interview will be conducted by a panel comprising Assessors and members of Council.
- Nominees will be informed of the results by the HPS Office as soon as possible after the assessment.
- If refused, Nominees cannot re-apply for two years from the date of refusal and, on reapplication, should state how they have developed their skill set.
- Any decisions made by Council are final.

PROBATION

- Probationers for the In Hand and Ridden Panels are required to undertake probationary shows with In Hand Panel Judges. The number of probations required will be determined by Council after the Assessment. In Hand Judges applying for the Ridden Panel, if selected by Council, are not required to probation but their riding ability will be assessed. Ridden Judges applying for the In Hand Panel, if selected by Council, will be required to have undertaken probationary shows.
- Probationers must be aware that acceptance of a probationer is at the judge's discretion. It is not obligatory for judges displaying a 'P' to accept a candidate for probation.
- Probationers must contact the judge and the show organiser and seek the Council's approval of intended probationary shows through the Society.
- Ridden panel candidates should endeavour to have at least one probation with an in hand judge with ridden experience.
- Probationers must not probation with their Proposer or Secunder or with any judge who does not take probationers.
- The probationer judge armband, which will be supplied by the Society, must be worn by the Probationer when in the ring.
- After the show, the judge is required to send a report on the Probationer to the Society for consideration by Council. Reports are confidential.
- The Society will contact current probationers after each year informing them of their progress to date.
- On completion of the required probationary shows, the Council will consider all the probationary reports and:
 - i. admit Nominees as B Panel Judges;
 - ii. extend the probationary period; or
 - iii. refuse Nominees.
- Unsuccessful Probationers may not re-apply for two years from the date of refusal and, on reapplication, should state how they have developed their skill set.
- Any decisions made by Council are final.

IV. JUDGES

- Council will determine whether B panel judges may be promoted to the full Panel after having judged at a minimum of four shows affiliated to the Highland Pony Society over a minimum of two years. Once approval to be promoted to the full panel is given by Council, the Secretary of the Society will write to inform B panel judges of the decision.
- B Panel Judges must not accept judging appointments at Society Medal shows.
- Judges who do not record that they will take probationers must not take them.
- All judges must be current Society members.
- The Society will write to all current Society Judges annually asking:
 - i. if they wish to remain on the Panel;
 - ii. if they wish to be transferred to the supplementary Panel (Championships etc.);
 - iii. provided they are on the full Panel, if they are willing to take probationers;
 - iv. Ridden Judges if they are willing to ride ponies in the ring;
 - v. at which shows they have judged during the year and approximate numbers forward.

VI. STUDY DAY

- Study Days will be held regularly.
- Judges are encouraged to attend these.